

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph on page 1, beginning at line 9 as follows:

DMAc is used predominantly as a solvent, for example as a solvent for solution spinning of elastic polyurethane block copolymers which are known by the brand names Spandex® or Lycra®, as well as ~~[[()]]~~ or the production of hollow fibers.

Please amend the paragraph on page 1, beginning at line 13 as follows:

In order to be able to obtain high quality fibers in solution spinning, the DMAc used is required to fulfill the following specifications: water content < 100 ppm, pH between 6.5 and 7, and specific electrical conductivity < 0.6 ~~[[x]]~~ $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, or of less than 0,2 ~~[[x]]~~ $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$. The electric conductivity of pure DMAc is basically caused by its content of impurities, like acids mainly acetic acid and salts, especially the anerine salts of acetic acid. The given specifications of pure DMAc with respect to gH-value and electric conductivity correspond to a content of acetic acid of less than 50 weight-ppm.

Please amend the paragraph on page 2, beginning at line 32 as follows:

Crude DMAc contains as main components besides DMAc ~~anerines~~ amines, acetic acid and water. The content of acetic acid in acid include DMAc to be purified by the process of the invention does not exceed 20 weight-%. As water-containing crude DMAc there is understood herein below a crude DMAc with a water content between 1 and 99 weight-% or also of between 2 to 99 weight-% and between 80 and 98 weight-% especially between 95 and 98 weight-%, or also between 1 and 6 weight-%.

Please amend the paragraph on page 5, beginning at line 1 as follows:

It is also possible that the sidestream column in column configuration (H) (I) is also operated at a top pressure in the range from 0.5 to 1.8 bar absolute, preferably from 0.8 to 1.5 bar absolute, more preferably from 1.0 to 1.3 bar absolute.

Please amend the paragraph on page 8, beginning at line 6 as follows:

A crude DMAc stream 1 is fed to the middle region of the main column MC. A low boiler-containing stream 3 is removed at the top of the column and a high boiler-containing stream 4 from the bottom of the column. A gaseous stream is [[10]] removed via a sidestream takeoff and which still contains high-boiling impurities which impair the specification, in particular acetic acid, and is purified in the sidestream column SC which is operated in rectifying mode to obtain a pure DMAc stream 6 at the top of the column.

On page 8, after line 12 add the following paragraph:

Figure 2 shows an example of the process according to configuration (II) where stream 1 is fed to the main column. Stream 3 is removed at the top of the column and stream 4 from the bottom of the column. Stream 6 is also shown as being removed from the column.